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tain irregularities in the figures for female mulattoes at the ages after forty-five suggest that the table may be defective at these points.

The tables altogether confirm what has been known with regard to health conditions in Cuba under the present administration. Much excellent work is being accomplished, but much remains to be done. It should not be a difficult matter for the people of Havana to show even better conditions of the death rate and of the expectation of life in the next table—say ten years hence. The most promising results will follow from an attack on the problems of infant mortality and of tuberculosis. Cubans are, obviously, a hardy people, living under very favorable conditions of nature. The old dangers to life in the tropics no longer menace them. Plague, yellow fever, cholera, and the other scourges are matters of the past. As with us in the United States, the health program of the future will consist in developing more intensive work along the lines of personal hygiene under public direction. The Cuban administration of the public health may be expected to make good its efforts along such lines, as it has done in the control of the tropical diseases.

LOUIS I. DUBLIN.

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#### INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION UNDER THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Under Article 24, Part I, of the Peace Treaty, all international bureaus and commissions for the regulation of matters of international interest are to be placed under the direction of the League of Nations. If the parties concerned agree, this may also be done with similar international bodies which are already in existence. In August, 1919, the application of this section to the organization of statistics was the subject of a conference held in London under the direction of the Economic and Finance section of the League. This conference was composed of representatives of the Institute of Agriculture at Rome and the International Institute at the Hague, and leading statisticians, their object being to discuss the relations of the League with these bodies, and also in general the way in which the new League organization could profitably assist the development of international coöperation in statistics.

It was the unanimous opinion of this conference that it would be of great advantage if all the work in the statistical field whose accomplishment is a necessity in the political life of nations could be organized under a centralized system. The plan suggested was that of a central advisory council to meet normally at the seat of the League. With regard to the main classes of statistics, namely, (a) commercial, industrial, and economic, (b) agricultural, (c) labor, and (d) demographic, it was the opinion that these should be entrusted to different bodies under the League, the existing bodies being designated as the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome (agriculture), the International Labour Office (labor), and the Permanent Bureau of the International Institute at the Hague (demography).

The conference of August, 1919, was purely informal, the members being without mandates from their respective governing bodies, and it disbanded with a

recommendation for the appointment of a committee for the purpose of drawing up more definite recommendations, and with a general instruction to the Secretary General of the League to obtain, in as representative a manner as possible, further views from international statisticians upon the questions considered. In accordance with the latter instruction, a conference took place in February, 1920, between the British Empire Statistical Conference, then meeting in London, and the Secretary General.

The matter as a whole, in the light of these and other representations, was reconsidered at the meeting of the Council of the League which took place in Rome in May, 1920. It was decided in effect to open the question *ab initio* and formally, by the appointment of a commission. The report on the question, which was presented by the Belgian representative, M. Destrée, after recounting the action already taken, pointed out that any attempt to realize the desirable object of uniformity and centralization in statistics raises problems which cannot be solved without the help of experts, "both statisticians and persons who make use of statistics." The report presented by M. Destrée and adopted by the Council proceeds:

"I propose that, to this end, a commission be set up on the following lines: Each of the existing bodies, *viz.*:

International Labour Office,

International Institute of Statistics,

International Institute of Agriculture,

International Bureau of Commercial Statistics (Brussels),

should be invited to nominate one representative. This committee should be completed by the addition of the following persons, whose work in the past points beyond question to such a choice:

M. Lucien March,

M. de Elola,

Mr. R. H. Coats,

M. Luigi Bodio.

The commission thus formed should have power to add to its number by coöoperating with other eminent statisticians whose collaboration it might desire. At the same time, it should use every effort to keep its numbers as low as possible."

It is understood that the commission thus appointed will assemble for a session of three or four weeks during September, 1920.

R. H. C.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The progress of the Fourteenth Census work to July 1, 1920, is indicated in the following note. Up to July 31 the Bureau of the Census had announced the population of 4,629 cities, towns, and villages, and of 1,039 counties, having an aggregate population of 65,818,354. The latest comparative figures which have been prepared, showing the increase between 1910 and 1920 as against the increase for the same places between 1900 and 1910, relate to those places for which the populations had been announced on or before July 31. At that time the increase between 1910 and 1920 for the 4,157 cities, towns, and villages, and the 1,003 counties for which comparative figures for the last